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## **Sen. Laura Toy announces \$27,000 in Emerald Ash Borer grants awarded to Redford, Westland**

**LANSING** – Two communities in the 6th Senate District will benefit from \$27,000 in Emerald Ash Borer Tree Planting Grants, announced Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia.

Redford Charter Township will receive \$2,500, while the city of Westland will receive \$24,500 for tree planting projects.

“This is wonderful news for Redford and Westland,” Sen. Toy said. “Our area is ground zero of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Michigan. Communities throughout the 6th Senate District have been just devastated by this destructive insect.”

Federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, the grants are designed to help communities affected by the EAB establish tree planting projects to replace trees destroyed by the insect.

Fifty-nine applications were received and 39 projects totaling \$521,332 were approved.

The EAB is an exotic insect native to Asia that attacks ash trees. In its larval stage, EAB feeds undetected under the bark of ash trees, disrupting water and nutrient flow, and ultimately killing the trees in just a few years.

First discovered in 2002, the borer is responsible for the death or damage of approximately 15 million ash trees in southeast Michigan.

“Particularly as we enter the hunting season, I would like to remind citizens that one thing they should not pack for their trips is firewood,” Sen. Toy said. “Our entire area is part of a firewood quarantine to help prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer to other sections of our great state and to protect the millions of acres of forests in our Upper Peninsula.”

The Emerald Ash Borer Response Project, comprised of state and federal agencies, universities, and industry partners, attributes a number of isolated pockets of infestation in the state to the movement of infested firewood. Residents traveling to enjoy Michigan’s outdoors are urged to purchase firewood after they have reach their destination and to burn all wood on site, leaving any unused wood behind and not removing it from the area.

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